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GENERAL HOSPITAL.

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ACTS.

An act to incorporate certain persons by the name of the Massachusetts General Hospital.

SECT. 1. BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That James Bowdoin, John Adams, Elbridge Gerry, Theophilus Parsons, William Gray, John Thornton Kirkland, Harrison Gray Otis, Christopher Gore, William Eustis, William Phillips, John Quincy Adams, Henry Dearborn, Levi Lincoln, Isaac Parker, Joseph B. Varnum, George Cabot, Perez Morton, Thomas Dawes, Thomas Hazard, jun. Thomas Cutts, Israel Thorndike, Matthew Bridge, Samuel Brown, James Perkins, David Tilden, John Lowell, Samuel Dana, Joseph Story, William King, Samuel Fowler, Marshall Spring, Thomas H. Perkins, Thomas C. Amory, Benjamin Bussey, Aaron Hill, William Heath, Thomas Kittredge, James Prince, Benjamin Greene, Thomas Melville, Joseph Coolidge, Elias H. Derby, John C. Jones, Jonathan Davis, Jonathan Harris, James Mann, Timothy Childs, Daniel Kilham, Benjamin Crowninshield, Arnold Welles, Jonathan Amory, Robert Hallowell, Andrew Craigie, John Warren, Richard Sullivan, and William Payne, together with such other persons, as may hereafter be admitted members of the corporation berein after created, according to the by-laws thereof, be, and they hereby are incorporated and made a body corporate and politic, by the name of The Massachusetts General Hospital, and by that name may sue and be sued, and shall have and use a common seal, to be by them devised, altered and renewed at their pleasure.

Sect. 2. And be it further enacted, That the said Corporation may take and receive, hold, purchase and possess, of and from all persons disposed to aid the benevolent purposes of this institution, any grants and devises of lands and tenements, in fee simple, or otherwise, and any donations and bequests, and subscriptions of money, or other property, to be used and improved for the erection, support and maintenance of a General Hospital, for sick and insane persons. Provided, that the income of said Corporation, from its real and personal estate together, do at no time exceed

the sum of thirty thousand dollars.

SECT. 3. And be it further enacted, That it shall be in the power of the Legislature of this Commonwealth, or of any committee, or officer, duly appointed by them for that purpose, to introduce into the said hospital, all such lunatick and sick persons, as may hereafter be chargeable to this Commonwealth, and who would otherwise receive support and medical and other necessary aid and assistance, at the expense of the publick Freasury, as soon as said hospital may be in readiness, and to have provided for them therein suitable apartments, bedclothing, board, and nurses, and the most skilful medical advice, free of all cost to the Commonwealth, and at the sole charge of the funds of the corporation. Provided, the whole number of patients so received into said hospital, at the request of the Legislature, or of officers appointed by them for that purpose, shall at no one time, exceed thirty, unless the trustees of said corporation shall consent to the admission of a further number of the state's poor.

SECT. 4. And be it further enacted, That in consideration of the obligation aforesaid imposed upon said corporation in the foregoing section, the estate commonly called the Old Province House, with all the lands under and appurtenant to the same, be, and are hereby given and granted unto said corporation in fee simple, to be sold at the discretion of said corporation, and the proceeds thereof to be held and applied, as a

foundation of a general hospital. Provided however, that before such sale shall be made, the said corporation shall give bond to the Treasurer of this Commonwealth, with surety or sureties, to be approved of by His Excellency the Governor and Council, for the time being, that the proceeds of said sale, with the interest thereon, shall be paid into the Treasury, for the use of the Commonwealth, within five years from the passing of this act, unless an additional sum of one hundred thousand dollars shall have been raised and provided by private subscriptions or donations, other than grants from the Commonwealth for the purposes of this act.

SECT. 5. Be it further enacted, That the said General Hospital shall be under the direction and management of twelve Trustees, who shall be chosen annually, and shall remain in office until others are chosen and qualified in their stead; four of which Trustees shall be chosen by the Board of Visitors, and the remaining

eight by the Corporation aforesaid.

Sect. 6. And be it further enacted, That the said Corporation may at their first, or any subsequent meeting, choose all necessary and convenient officers, who shall have such powers and authorities as the said Corporation may think proper to prescribe and grant to them, and who shall be elected in such manner, and for such periods of time, as the by-laws of the said Corporation may provide. And said Corporation may further make and establish such by-laws and regulations, for the internal government and economy of the Hospital, as they may think proper, not repugnant to the Constitution and Laws of this Commonwealth.

SECT. 7. And be it further enacted, That the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the President of the Senate, and Speaker of the House of Representatives, with the Chaplains of both Houses, for the time being, be, and hereby are made and constituted a Board of Visitors of the said Hospital; with authority to visit the same semi-annually, and as much oftener as they may think proper, in order to inspect the establishment, and

the actual condition of the sick, to examine the bylaws and regulations enacted by said Corporation, and if they see fit, to disallow and annul the same, and generally to see that the design of the institution be carried into effect, in a careful, tender and effectual manner; and especially to see that the State has its full proportion of patients in the Hospital, as provided in the third section of this act, and that the said patients are suitably attended to, and comfortably maintained.

Sect. 8. And be it further enacted, by the authority aforesaid, That in case of the separation of the District of Maine, and the erection of it into a separate State, pursuant to the provisions of the Constitution of the United States, the amount of the sale of the Province House shall be carried into the estimate, with the other publick property of the Commonwealth.

SECT. 9. And be it further enacted, That it shall be lawful for the Corporation, at any general meeting of the members thereof, to alter or change the name of said Corporation, either by substituting the name of any distinguished benefactor, who may contribute a sum exceeding the amount given by the Commonwealth, or by adding the name of such benefactor, to the name given to said Corporation by this act, in case the sum so given by such benefactor, shall not exceed the sum given by the Commonwealth. And upon such change so as aforesaid made, the said Corporation shall have a right to assume and take such name, and shall have, hold and enjoy all the powers and privileges given by this act, notwithstanding such alteration and change.

SECT. 10. And be it further enacted, That James Bowdoin, Esq. be, and hereby is authorized to call the first meeting of said Corporation, by notification, and therein to appoint the time and place of said meeting: Provided, that no notification shall be deemed valid, unless it be published in all the newspapers printed in

Boston, for six weeks in succession.

SEOT. 11. Be it further enacted, That the Legisla-

ture shall have power to alter, amend, or repeal this act, whenever they shall be of opinion that the publick good may require it; provided that no such alteration, amendment or repeal, shall be made in such manner as to revest in the Commonwealth, the grant herein made, or the proceeds thereof, after a private subscription for the purposes of this act shall have been actually commenced.

SECT. 12. Be it further enacted, That the said Hospital may be erected in any place not included within the territorial limits of the town of Boston.

[This act passed Feb. 25, 1811.]

An act in addition to an act, entitled, "An act to incorporate certain persons, by the name of The Massachusetts General Hospital," passed February 25th, A. D. 1811.

of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the third section of the act, incorporating certain persons by the name of the Massachusetts General Hospital be, and the same hereby is repealed; and that in lieu of the obligation therein imposed, the said Corporation shall be held and obliged to appropriate out of its funds, annually forever, to the support and maintenance of such sick, poor and lunatick persons, as may be received into said Hospital at the request of the legislature, or of any committee or officer appointed as the legislature may hereafter provide for the purpose, a sum equal to simple interest on the money, for which the Province-House estate shall be sold; and until the sale thereof, the said Corporation shall be held to keep a correct account of the rents received, to be applied to the main-

Repealed

tenance of sick, poor and lunatick persons, who would otherwise be chargeable to the Commonwealth, as soon as the Hospital shall be erected, And in case the said estate shall revert to the Commonwealth, as by the former and present acts is provided, the amount of said rents shall be paid into the Treasury of the Commonwealth.

SECT. 2 Be it further enacted, That a further time of five years, from the twenty-fifth day February eighteen hundred and sixteen, be allowed and granted to said Corporation, to raise by private subscriptions or donations, the sum of one hundred thousand dollars for the purposes of their institution, without prejudice to the grant contained in the fourth section of said act.

Sect. 3. Be it further enacted, That so much of the seventh section of said act, as empowers the board of visitors of said Hospital to disallow and annul the by-laws of said Corporation, be, and the same is here-

by repealed.

SECT. 4. Be it further enacted, That the eleventh and twelfth sections of said act be, and the same hereby are repealed.

[Approved by the Governor, June 14, 1813.]

An act in addition to an act, entitled "An act to incorporate the Massachusetts General Hospital."

Sec. 1. BE it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives, in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, That the Massachusetts General Hospital be, and the said corporation hereby is authorized to grant annuities on the life or lives of one or more persons, or for shorter terms of time, on such conditions, and with such security, as the said corporation and the annuitant or annuitants, may agree upon.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That if at any time hereafter it shall appear to the legislature, that the privilege of granting annuities, hereby given to the said corporation, shall be injurious to the publick welfare, the power of the Legislature to repeal this act, authorizing such annuities, shall not be denied or impaired; but such repeal shall not affect any engagement to which said corporation may have become a party previous thereto. And it shall be the duty of the Trustees of the said Massachusetts General Hospital to transmit to the Governor and Council of this Commonwealth for the time being, annually, on the first Monday in January of each year, an accurate account of all annuities by them sold or granted, by virtue of this act, signed by the trustees or a major part of them, and attested by the Treasurer of the corporation.

[Approved by the Governor, February 24, 1814.]

Resolve on the petition of the Massachusetts General Hospital Corporation relative to the sale of the old Province House. 13th Feb. 1816.

On the petition of the Massachusetts General Hospital Corporation, praying for a modification of the condition, on which the said Corporation is authorized by law to sell or otherwise dispose of the estate called the

old Province House.

Resolved, For reasons set forth in said petition, that the authority which the said Corporation now have by law to sell and dispose of said estate, and to apply the proceeds thereof as a fund for a General Hospital, shall be subject to the sole condition, that before a sale of said estate be made, the said Corporation shall give bond to the Treasurer of the Commonwealth, with surety or sureties, to be approved by his Excellency the Governor and Council, for the time being, conditioned,

that the proceeds of said sale, with the interest thereon, shall be paid into the Treasury for the use of the Commonwealth, within one year from the date of such sale, unless an additional sum of one hundred thousand dollars shall have been raised by private subscription, or donation, for the purpose of the Hospital; any thing contained in the act, entitled an act to incorporate certain persons by the name of the Massachusetts General Hospital, and an act in addition thereto, passed in June, eighteen hundred and thirteen, to the contrary notwithstanding.

10: act Feb 24.1818 Chep. 180

" June 8. 1819 " 156

" Feb . 15. 1821 " * 82

Resolve June . 1817



